

July 10 Steering Committee Comments regarding K-12 advisory recommendations

General comments:

- Look at prioritization, phase-in and pilots.
- Accountability - how do we do it?
- Where are coordination, efficiency and accountability in the recommendations? Accountability seems to be related to new funds only.
- Should these be our priorities? - curriculum, time, and compensation?

Recommendation # 1

Redefine the constitutional definition of basic education based upon the four student learning goals of HB 1209 and five new measurable system goals and reaffirm that the state is responsible for funding this definition of basic education.

Comments:

- Please include relationships -- rigor and relevance appear to be included.
- How measure the goals in the future -- we need data and goals for each benchmark and indicator. (This is needed in early learning and higher education as well.)
- Where is the evidence that teachers are not prepared to teach math -- what classes need to be taught. (How many teachers or principals are ready to teach world-class courses?)
- Concerns raised permitting differentiation by ethnicity -- might lead to differentiation of segregation prohibited by the United States Supreme Court.
- Where is the evidence that better-prepared math teachers would better help students.
- Assessing students in kindergarten is too late -- there needs to be assessment and parent out-reach not later than at age three or four (like the federal child find program). Parents need to need to know where to go for help. If get help to them early, they won't need special education, tutoring, etc. in K-12.

Recommendation #2

Reengineer and personalize our schools based on research-driven and evidence-based investments.

- Indicate which recommendations need legislative funding, which need policy changes, which are governed by federal law. (This is for early learning and higher education too.)
- Need to prioritize / hone in among these items.
- All schools should be engaging in best practices, not just struggling schools.
- Report is missing looking at time: how the school day and school year should be restructured.

- Look at technology and how it could be used to personalize education -- there might be a way of having an ala carte approach to teaching.
- Look to technology to help struggling students and to challenge students who want to soar.
- The 180-day school year is too short, we need to look at an extended school year if we are to meet our goals (or not enough of the 180 day school year is used for instruction).
- The State Board should be in charge of accountability and concern about any suggestion that the "state" should take over schools.
- Look at using existing resources: I-728 funds should be used to reduce class size.

Recommendation #3

Restructure our system of educator development and compensation to attract, prepare, retool and retain world class, culturally competent and diverse teachers and educational leaders.

- Doesn't see licensure tied to classroom performance.
- Need more professional development. Need to have time to work as a team during the school day.
- Wants to create specialists within teaching.
- Crucial to keep emphasis on teachers.
- We should go beyond colleges of education in preparing teachers.
- Principals should be emphasized separately -- so the specific goals for principals are intentional.
- Support institute idea.
- Look at concept of preservice improvement outside of the higher education system.

Recommendation #4

Realign curriculum and instructional supports to grade-level expectations and rigorous graduation requirements

- How do the concepts of a state-wide aligned curriculum and a personalized education work together and not be in conflict?
- We need more partnerships with businesses and community and on-the-job experience, students need to know why they should take more rigorous courses, students need to know about their CTE options.
- Students need more arts education and how to think creatively; we need to know how to become the "creativity state." How do we inject / cultivate creativity in the curriculum?

- We need to realign the math curriculum with the GLEs and the EALRs; expressed concern about some of the new trends in math education -- the current approach is not working. Need to investigate and be willing to change.
- Leadership is important
- How do we compare in 05-06 in spending trends?
- Haven't heard about workforce /apprenticeships.